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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A polymer composition, comprising a mixture of a polymer derivative having the structure R-O-POLY-R' and a polymer derivative having the structure R-O-POLY-O-R, wherein POLY is a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer, R is alkyl, and R' is a functional group,

wherein POLY is a poly(alkylene glycol) ~~poly(alkylene glycols)~~, and

wherein R' is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, mesylate, tosylate, tresylate, -O-CO₂R₃ wherein R₃ is H, alkyl or N-succinimidyl, -O-(CH₂)_n-CO₂R₃ wherein n is 1-6 and R₃ is H, alkyl or N-succinimidyl, -NHR₄ wherein R₄ is H or alkyl or an amine protecting group, -O-(CH₂)_n-CH(ZR₅)₂ wherein n is 1-6, and Z is O or S, R₅ is H or alkyl, Ar-CH=CH-CH=CH-CO₂-, wherein Ar represents a moiety selected from the group consisting of phenyl, substituted phenyl, biphenyl, substituted biphenyl, polycyclic aryls, substituted polycyclic aryls, and heterocyclic aryls, -O-(CH₂)_n CHO wherein n is 1-6, -O₂CCH₂CH₂CO₂R₆, wherein R₆ is H or N-succinimidyl, CH₂=CH-CO₂-, and -O-CH₂-CO₂CH(CH₃)CH₂CO₂-NHS, wherein NHS is N-succinimidyl.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol).

4. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 3, wherein POLY has the formula -CH₂CH₂-O-(CH₂CH₂O)_n-CH₂CH₂-, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.

5. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R is methyl.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R' is hydroxyl.

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8. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R' is -O-CO₂R₃ or -O-(CH₂)_n-CO₂R₃, wherein n is 1-6 and R₃ is H, alkyl or N-succinimidyl.
9. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 8, wherein R₃ is N-succinimidyl.
10. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R' is -O-(CH₂)_n-CHO wherein n is 1-6.
11. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R' is -O-(CH₂)_n-CH(ZR₅)₂ wherein n is 1-6, Z is O or S, and R₅ is H or alkyl.
12. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol), R is methyl, and R' is -O-(CH₂)_n-CHO wherein n is 2.
13. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 12, wherein POLY has the formula -CH₂CH₂-O-(CH₂CH₂O)_n-CH₂CH₂-, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.
14. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol), R is methyl, and R' is hydroxyl.
15. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 14, wherein POLY has the formula -CH₂CH₂-O-(CH₂CH₂O)_n-CH₂CH₂-, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.
16. (Currently Amended) A polymer composition, comprising a polymer derivative having the structure R-O-POLY-R' and a polymer derivative having the structure R-O-POLY-O-R, wherein POLY is a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer, R is alkyl and R' is -O-(CH₂)_n-CHO or -O-(CH₂)_n-CH(ZR₅)₂ wherein n is 1-6, Z is O or S, and R₅ is H or alkyl, in the absence of HO-POLY-OH, and wherein POLY is a poly(alkylene glycol) poly(alkylene glycols).
17. (Cancelled).

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18. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 16, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol).

19. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 18, wherein POLY has the formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.

20. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 16, wherein R is methyl.

21 - 26 (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 16, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol), R is methyl, and R' is $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CHO}$, wherein n is 2.

28. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 27, wherein POLY has the formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.

29. (Previously presented) The polymer composition of Claim 16, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol) and R is methyl.

30. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 29, wherein POLY has the formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.

31 - 50 (Cancelled)